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Learn to Count in Japanese! (1-10)

Learn about counting from one to ten

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Dialogue - Japanese

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Kanji English Rōmaji Hiragana All

A: 皆さん聞いてください。

B: はい～。

A: 8引く5は、清さん？

C: 4です。

A: 違います。智子さん。

D: 3です。

A: はい、そうです。次は6引く4は、清さん？

C: 1です。

A: 違います。智子さん。

D: 2です。

A: はい、よくできました。じゃあ、清さん9引く7は？

C: 3です。

A: ……じゃあ、頑張ってくださいね。

C: はい、頑張ります。

Listen to the full conversation.

Vocabulary

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English Kana Rōmaji

聞く [きく]
to hear, to listen, to ask

引く [ひく] 1 EXAMPLE
to pull, to draw back, to catch a cold, to look up
夫がそりを引く。
The husband pulls the sleed.

そうです [そうです] 1 EXAMPLE
That's right.
はい、そうです。
Yes, that's right.

よくできました [よくできました]
Well done

頑張ってください [がんばってください]
Do your best

違います [ちがいます] 1 EXAMPLE
That's wrong
それは、違います。
That's not right.

皆さん [みなさん] 1 EXAMPLE
everyone
皆さん、こんにちは。
Hello, everybody.

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Lesson Notes

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Lesson Focus

Today's lesson covers counting numbers one through ten. In Japanese, there are two systems for doing this: one with origins in the native Japanese counting system and one with origins in the Chinese counting system.

In today's lesson we covered the Chinese derivative, but both are presented in the following chart. Please note that the Japanese counting system uses counters, words or syllables placed after a number. Counters are determined by the object being counted, and these will be examined further in later lessons.

Chinese Counting System

	Kanji	Kana	*Romaji*
1	一	いち	*ichi*
2	二	に	*ni*
3	三	さん	*san*
4	四	し・よん	*shi・yon*
5	五	ご	*go*
6	六	ろく	*roku*
7	七	なな・しち	*nana・shichi*
8	八	はち	*hachi*
9	九	きゅう・く	*kyū・ku*
10	十	じゅう	*jū*

Japanese Counting System

	Kanji	Kana	*Romaji*
1	一つ	ひとつ	*hitotsu*
2	二つ	ふたつ	*futatsu*
3	三つ	みっつ	*mittsu*
4	四つ	よっつ	*yottsu*
5	五つ	いつつ	*itsutsu*
6	六つ	むっつ	*muttsu*
7	七つ	ななつ	*nanatsu*
8	八つ	やっつ	*yattsu*
9	九つ	ここのつ	*kokonotsu*
10	十	とお	*tō*

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Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

いい ii
good — *Introduced*

は？ wa?
inferred question — *Introduced*

て形（動詞） te-kei
te-form - and, -ing — *Introduced*

ください kudasai
please — *Introduced*

は wa
Topic maker, As for — *Used*

です desu
to be (copula) — *Used*

Kanji

Hide

KANJI	READING	MEANING	1ST CHARACTER	2ND CHARACTER
智子	とも・こ	Tomoko	智・Wisdom	子・Child
引く	ひ・く	To pull	引・Pull	
聞く	き・く	To hear	聞・Hear	
清	きよし	Kiyoshi	清・Pure	

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